

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Girl Scouts of the USA in recognition of their 90th anniversary.

From the small beginnings of a group of 18 girls gathered in Savannah, Georgia, Girl Scouting has grown to a membership of 3.8 million women and girls worldwide. For 90 years now, Girl Scouts of the USA has been encouraging young women to develop and meet their full potential.

As a former high school teacher, I can attest that the positive values learned in the Girl Scout program will help these girls make sound decisions throughout their lives. The Girl Scouts of the USA teaches girls to contribute to society and, through their interaction with the community around them, develop a strong sense of self-confidence and a willingness to take on responsibility. These qualities create a strong foundation, which will enable them to grow into quality citizens and effective leaders.

While Girl Scouting provides opportunities for community service to girls of all ages, senior Girl Scouts are able to build upon their service experience in the Gold Award program. The Girl Scout Gold Award program encourages senior Girl Scouts to use their leadership skills, career interests and personal values to meet an expressed need in their community.

The Girl Scouts of the USA have done an exceptional job of cultivating a positive atmosphere that allows young women to develop confidence in themselves, as well as a desire to serve their communities. I applaud them for their commitment to our nation's children, and am hopeful they will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of young adults for years to come.

HONORING CORPORAL PETER PATZER

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Corporal Peter Patzer who retired from the Lower Gwynedd Township Police Department in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, after twenty-seven years of outstanding service.

Mr. Patzer served in the United States Navy from 1965 through 1967. He served on the USS *Forrestal* CVA-59 Mediterranean Fleet and was honorably discharged in 1971 with

the rank of E-3. He returned home and began his tenure with Lower Gwynedd as a police officer in 1974 and was later promoted to Corporal in 1987.

Corporal Patzer served as the Traffic Safety officer for Lower Gwynedd Township. He has been recognized by his community for his fine work and service.

I am pleased to honor Corporal Peter Patzer on his retirement. He has made significant contributions to his community and is deserving of the praise he has received from members of his community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSEPH A. KNOTHE, RECIPIENT OF THE LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOSEPH J. REDDEN AWARD

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Joseph A. Knothe of Huntsville, Alabama for receiving the 2001 Lt. Gen. Joseph J. Redden Award, a very prestigious honor recognizing the nation's highest ranked Air Force pilot and navigator candidate in order of merit.

Mr. Knothe, a 1997 graduate of Grissom High School in Huntsville, Alabama, is now a senior majoring in mechanical engineering at Auburn University and is the school's top ranked Air Force cadet. Last year, he was among only thirty-five cadets in the nation to be selected to attend the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program based in Wichita Falls, Texas. Cadets selected for this demanding pilot training are sent to Sheppard Air Force Base where they are trained solely on fighter jets.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my sincere congratulations to Joseph Knothe for receiving this distinguished award. The criteria for the award are highly competitive and include grade point average, physical fitness, an Air Force Officer Qualifying Test, a Basic Attributes Test, and Commander's Ranking.

Joseph Knothe will graduate with honors from Auburn University and be commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in May 2002, which will no doubt launch his career as a future leader in our nation's military. I commend Mr. Knothe for his achievements and wish him the best in his future career in the United States Air Force.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 353, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 353) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2003 and setting forth appropriate budget levels for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2007:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to this budget resolution, which undermines our long-term fiscal health and spends a huge portion of the Social Security and Medicare surpluses.

I stand united with the President and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in our commitment to defeat terrorism and to do what is necessary to preserve national security both at home and abroad. However, despite the many new security and economic challenges confronting us, our homeland protection efforts and fiscal policies should not shortchange Social Security and other national priorities. We can win the war against terrorism without raiding the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds and without increasing the national debt.

Earlier this year, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) confirmed that in less than a year the 10-year projected surplus declined by \$4 trillion. While portions of this decline are a result of the war and the economic downturn, the depletion of the surplus to date was largely caused by last year's massive and fiscally irresponsible tax cut package. The additional billions in tax cuts proposed in this year's budget would only worsen our current situation and lead us further down the path of mounting deficits and escalating public debt. To pay for the additional tax cuts, this budget would raid more than \$1.5 trillion from the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds over the next ten years to cover deficits in the rest of the federal budget. We need a wartime freeze on tax cuts to avoid deficit spending.

When I was elected to Congress, I promised my constituents that I would protect the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds. And I was not alone. Over one hundred of my colleagues have co-sponsored legislation to prevent Congress from spending the Social Security and Medicare surpluses, and the House of Representatives has voted four times in the past three years to establish lockboxes for these funds.

The Administration and the Republican Leadership made the very same pledge to not touch these vital trust funds. This budget breaks that promise. It is time to honor our commitments by acknowledging our current situation and working together to craft budget that is fair and fiscally responsible.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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